Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 04626 240833Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 USIE-00 SSO-00 PA-01 A-01 NSCE-00 OPR-02 CPR-01 SY-05 USSS-00 CCO-00 /036 W

-----116755 240845Z/16

O 240815Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6203

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 4626

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: VISAS FOR

NON-TRAVELING PRESS

REF: STATE 074850; LAGOS 3726

- 1. NIGERIAN VISA OFFICER HAS DECLINED ISSUE VISAS TO SEVERAL CORRESPONDENTS OF US MEDIA, EVEN THOUGH THESE PEOPLE ARE APPARENTLY ON LIST APPROVED BY MEA.
- 2. DCM HAS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH DEPTY NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHO SAYS HE WILL LOOK INTO IT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 28. WE ARE NOW IN FOUR DAY EASTER WEEKEND HOLIDAY, AND DEPUTY HICOM SAYS THERE IS NO WAY HE CAN BRING IN VISA OFFICER OR GET TO FILES HIMSELF BEFORE TUESDAY.
- 3. DURING CONVERSATION DEPUTY HICOM GAVE IMPRESSION THAT "AUTHORIZATION" FROM MEA WAS NOT A DIRECTIVE TO ISSUE AND THAT VISA OFFICER STILL HAD TO MAKE FINAL JUDGMENT ON ISSUANCE. HE CITED ONE ISSUANCE TO JIM PRINGLE OF NEWSWEEK, WHICH, ALTHOUGH AUTHORIZED BY MEA, GOT VISA OFFICER INTO HOT WATER WHEN PRINGLE WROTE STORIES MEA FOUND OBJECTIONABLE.

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PAGE 02 NAIROB 04626 240833Z

4. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS UP ON TUESDAY, BUT WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT ALL OF THOSE ON LIST WILL GET VISAS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 24 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB04626
Document Source: CORD

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Format: TEL

Film Number: D780130-0067

From: NAIROBI

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780328/aaaaaxok.tel

Line Count: 59 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 0af137be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 STATE 74850, 78 LAGOS 3726

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 27 apr 2005

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3212482 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: VISAS FOR NON-TRAVELING PRESS

TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: LAGOS STATE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0af137be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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